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52. (Amended) The method of claim 51 wherein the [chlorine] fluorine is provided in the gate oxide layer to a concentration of from about  $1 \times 10^{19}$  atoms/cm<sup>3</sup> to about  $1 \times 10^{21}$  atoms/cm<sup>3</sup>.

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53. (Amended) The method of claim 51 wherein the gate comprises opposing lateral edges and a central region therebetween, the [chlorine] fluorine being provided within the gate oxide layer to a greater concentration proximate at least one of the gate edges than in the central region.

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